

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 11 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7 and 13 and add new Claims 15-18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus for laminating a film on a record medium, comprising:

fixing means for fixing a film onto a front side of a record medium;
feed means for feeding the record medium to said fixing means;
film introducing means for directing the film to said fixing means;
conveying means for conveying toward a discharge port the record medium and the film which are fixed together by said fixing means;
a cutter disposed between said conveying means and said the discharge port and adapted to cut the film; and
a control unit having a repeat mode in which said apparatus shifts to a waiting condition where said film introducing means and said conveying means is are stopped so that in a condition that a preceding recording record medium is stopped at a position where it leaves said fixing means, said position located upstream of the discharge port in said apparatus, while and said feed means is driven to feed a succeeding record medium toward said fixing means, and then said fixing film introducing means, and said conveying means and said fixing means are driven again before a leading end of the succeeding record medium reaches said fixing means, while the succeeding record medium and the introduced film are fixed together as discharging the preceding record medium from said the discharge port.

2. (Original) A laminating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, in the repeat mode, said control unit controls said cutter to cut the fixed preceding record medium and film in a conveying condition.

3. (Original) A laminating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first sensor for detecting the record medium between said feed means and said fixing means, wherein said control unit starts driving of said fixing means and said conveying means when a predetermined time period is elapsed after the leading end of the record medium is detected by said first sensor, and stops the driving of said fixing means and said conveying means when a predetermined time period is elapsed after a trailing end of the record medium is detected by said first sensor, to thereby achieve a waiting condition.

4. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means includes a pair of rollers for pressurizing and heating the record medium and the film, and one of said rollers is provided with a heat source and can be shifted to be spaced apart from the other roller[;]] and, in the waiting condition, said one of the rollers of said fixing means is spaced apart from the other roller not to be contacted with the film.

5. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said fixing means includes a pair of rollers for pressurizing and heating the record medium and the film, and one of said rollers is provided with a heat source and can be shifted to be spaced apart from the other roller[;]] and, in the waiting condition, said one of the rollers of said fixing means is spaced apart from the other roller not to be contacted with the film.

6. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit includes a unit-of-sheet mode in which the record medium is fed by said feed means and the record medium and the introduced film are fixed together by said fixing means, and the fixed record medium and film are conveyed by said conveying means and cut by said cutter to be discharged from said the discharge port.

7. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second sensor disposed at a downstream side of said fixing means, wherein said second sensor has a first condition for detecting the fixed record medium and film portion, a second condition for detecting a film portion on which the record medium does not exist, and a third condition for detecting the fact that both the record medium and the film does do not exist.

8. (Original) A laminating apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a second sensor disposed at a downstream side of said fixing means, wherein said second sensor has a first condition for detecting the fixed record medium and film portion, a second condition for detecting a film portion on which the record medium does not exist, and a third condition for detecting the fact that both the record medium and the film do not exist.

9. (Original) A laminating apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a second sensor disposed at a downstream side of said fixing means, wherein said second sensor has a first condition for detecting the fixed record medium and film portion, a second condition for detecting a film portion on which the record medium does not exist, and a third condition for detecting the fact that both the record medium and the film do not exist.

10. (Original) A laminating apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a second sensor disposed at a downstream side of said fixing means, wherein said second sensor has a first condition for detecting the fixed record medium and film portion, a second condition for detecting a film portion on which the record medium does not exist, and a third condition for detecting the fact that both the record medium and the film do not exist.

Claims 11 and 12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a recording apparatus for recording an image on a record medium by using a recording head; and
a laminating apparatus for laminating a film onto the record medium on which the image was recorded by said recording apparatus,
said laminating apparatus including,
a record medium supply portion to which the record medium discharged from said recording apparatus is supplied,
fixing means for fixing the film onto a front surface of the record medium,
feed means for feeding the record medium to said fixing means,
film introducing means for directing the film to said fixing means,
conveying means for conveying the record medium and the film which are fixed together by said fixing mean toward a discharge port,

a cutter disposed between said conveying means and said discharge port and adapted to cut the film, and

a control unit having a repeat mode in which said apparatus shifts to a waiting condition where said film introducing means and said conveying means is stopped in a condition so that a preceding record medium is stopped at a position where it leaves said fixing means, said position located upstream of the discharge port in said apparatus, while said feed means is driven to feed a succeeding record medium toward said fixing means, and then said fixing film introducing means, and said conveying means and said fixing means are driven against again before a leading end of the succeeding record medium reaches said fixing means, so that while the succeeding record medium and the introduced film are fixed together while discharging the preceding record medium from said the discharge port.

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said recording apparatus is an ink jet recording apparatus.

15. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the record medium stopped in the waiting condition is fixed to the film at an upstream side of said cutter, and is cut off after the fixing of the film to the next record medium is started.

16. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising cleaning means for cleaning a surface of said roller, wherein in the waiting condition, said one roller shifted in a direction away from the other roller and abuts against said cleaning means to have its surface cleaned by said cleaning means.

17. (New) An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising cleaning means for cleaning a surface of said roller, wherein in the waiting condition, said one roller shifted in a direction away from the other roller and abuts against said cleaning means to have its surface cleaned by said cleaning means.

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising cleaning means for cleaning a surface of said roller, wherein in the waiting condition, said one roller shifted in a direction away from the other roller and abuts against said cleaning means to have its surface cleaned by said cleaning means.